

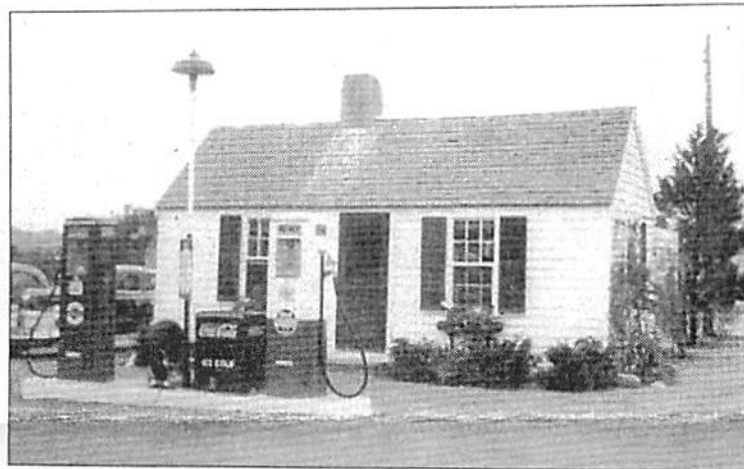
Barney has been a welcoming face at the Millbrook service station for nearly six decades. Above he (left) chats with a customer circa 1941.

## Remembering 'Barney'

Elwin Barnard, better known as Barney, died last week at the age of 95. For nearly six decades, Barney ran the Duxbury Service Station in Millbrook, but he was much more to our community than simply a gas station owner. Barney was a man of generous and caring spirit who was so self-effacing that most people never knew about his many acts of kindness, large and small.

Barney always took a special interest in Duxbury's children. The location of the gas station close to the schools meant that there was a daily progression of kids through the little building that housed the gas station office. Along with the local newspapers, Barney sold penny candy and tonics, which made his station a favorite stop for hungry kids. Barney ran the candy concession on the honor system, fully aware that many kids were not always scrupulous about depositing the correct amount of coins for the candy they took with them. The concession quickly became more of a public service than a profit center for Barney.

The kids frequenting Barney's soon learned to love the man who cared so much for all of them. The DHS class of 1972 dedicated their yearbook to Barney, citing his willingness to look the other way at the occasionally larcenous behavior of their early years, ("kids will be kids," he'd say), and the ready loan of the telephone to call home after school or sports. As they stated in their dedication to him, the Class of 1972, like so many other classes before and after, knew Barney as "the man with so much goodness in his heart that you wince when you think back to the first time you went there and stole a ... chocolate bar." Then a little maturity taught them to appreciate "the man and what he stood for" and to recognize "the effect he has had on our lives."



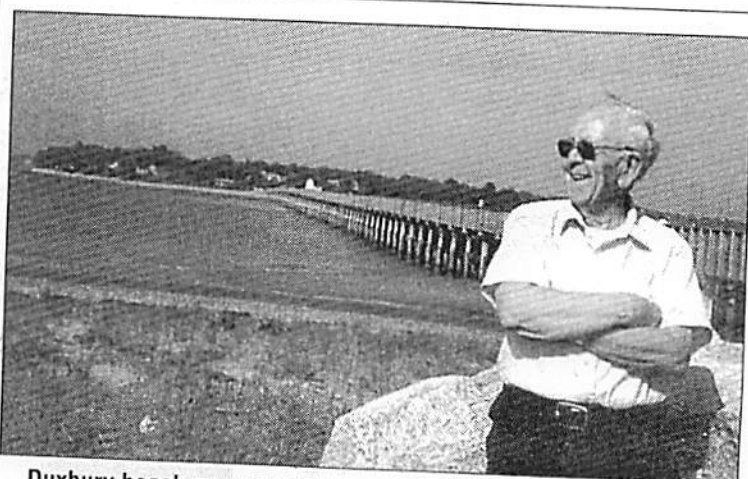
Although he spent six and a half days a week manning the gas station, Barney managed to find time to walk Duxbury Beach, a favorite haunt of his. In retirement, he was pleased to live for a year in the Duxbury Beach area and enjoyed the beach in all seasons. In his younger years, he volunteered for the Fire Department and served as recording secretary for twenty years. He also loved to dance and spent many Saturday nights at Tassy's happily dancing up a storm.

In the winter, Barney plowed snow, often doing the driveways of elderly people he knew could use the help, never sending them a bill. In his later years, he would refuse to go for a doctor's appointment unless he could get a box of candy first to give to the nurses. Every Christmas he would purchase candy or bottles of Christmas cheer to distribute to friends and acquaintances, often leav-

ing an extra \$20 behind for anyone he thought was in need of it. His great niece, Pam Barnard, says he could not go anywhere without bringing a gift and recollected the number of times he surprised her with candy or flowers.

Although Barney did not want any public acknowledgement during his life, his attorney, James Taylor Pye informs us that Barney's generosity continues after his death. As part of his estate planning, Barney set up a charitable trust to benefit the Partridge Academy Fund for scholarships for Duxbury High students, the Duxbury Education Foundation that provides financial support to the town's schools, and the Duxbury Beach Reservation.

Barney's kindness and warm personality will long be remembered in Duxbury, a town to which he gave much.



Duxbury beach was one of Barney's favorite haunts later in life.